REMARKS

By this amendment claims 1, 4, 8 and 12 have been amended and claims 3, 5, 14, 15 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 6 and 8 through 13 remain in the application. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application as amended are requested.

The claims pending after the communication of February 25, 2004 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Billstrom (U.S. Patent 5,838,670) in view of Wildey (European 0 429 200). Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the amendments submitted herewith is respectfully requested.

The primary reference to Billstrom discloses a primary object a point to multi-point radio access microwave system that uses only two frequency bands and alternating polarization. (underlining added) The Examiner will note that the independent claims have been amended to limit the claims to three or more frequency sets. The present invention relates to a method and system for providing bi-directional communication between multiple sectors in a geographic area. This includes nine cells in one embodiment and 16 cells in a second embodiment where Billstrom is concerned with what would appear to be fewer numbers of cells. Billstrom shows cells which are, at least in the figures, offset from the grid configuration by an angle of 45°. This angle is common for all sectors and they are all offset in the same direction.

By the amendments to the claims in the present application the offset has been limited to the range +/-17.5° to +/- 27.5° and wherein the offset in one row is in one direction while the offset in the adjacent row is offset in the opposite direction. Billstrom does not suggest or even contemplate such an arrangement. Wildey does disclose an arrangement of cells in which the sectors are rotated but again is only concerned with two frequency sets. This is because Wildey is limited to a method and system for providing broadcast coverage in a downstream mode only. Hence, Wildey is not concerned with interference caused by upstream signals wherein signals from a single CPE can have an impact on an entire sector.

Wildey is also only concerned with two frequency sets, see the paragraph bridging column 2 and column 3 wherein "Each transmitting unit may be adapted to transmit the signal on different frequencies to permit discrimination between its transmissions and any two adjacent beams. Alternatively, each transmitting unit may be adapted to transmit the signal of different polarization to permit discrimination between its transmission and any two adjacent beams." Clearly this description and the figures limit the frequency sets to two. As pointed out previously the present claims now call for three or more frequency sets.

It is well established that to support a finding of obviousness each and every element of the rejected claim must be found in the references in combination. Furthermore, there must be some suggestion that the combination would be obvious. It is respectfully submitted that neither Billstrom nor

Wildey have as their principle objective the reduction of inter cell interference and hence do not teach or suggest the invention as now defined in the amended claims.

In view of the foregoing it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Favourable reconsideration and action to this end is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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